

**FICUS BAOLA, A NEW SPECIES OF FICUS SUBGENUS
UROSTIGMA SECTION MALVANTHERA (MORACEAE)
FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS**

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SUMMARY

A new species of *Ficus* subg. *Urostigma* sect. *Malvanthera*, *F. baola* C. C. Berg, is described.

Key words: *Ficus*, sect. *Malvanthera*, Moraceae, Solomon Islands.

INTRODUCTION

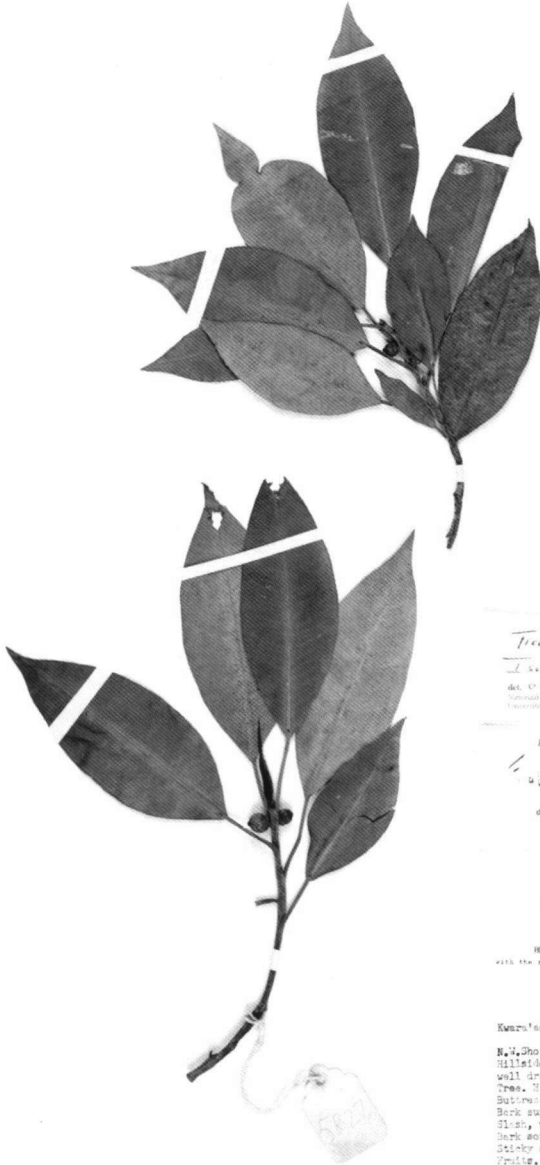
Material of this new species was included in *F. obliqua* G. Forst. by Corner, who regarded it as a form of that species, endemic to the Solomon Islands (Corner, 1967: 71, f. 11, right). It is not only different from *F. obliqua* in the slit-shaped aperture of the ostiole, but also in the apex of the peduncle, being dilated into a low cupule. The apex of the lamina is always sharp, whereas mostly \pm obtuse in *F. obliqua*. Most of the species of sect. *Malvanthera* as delimited by Corner (1960) have 3 inflexed upper ostiolar bracts resulting into a triradiate aperture. This new species, *F. destruens* C. T. White (from Australia), *F. glandifera* Summerh. (ranging from Sulawesi to the Solomon Islands), and *F. rhizophoriphylla* King (from eastern New Guinea), have two inflexed upper ostiolar bracts, making the aperture slit-shaped. The difference in the aperture of the ostiole appears to be a solid differentiating character at the species level.

***Ficus baola* C. C. Berg, spec. nov.** — Fig. 1

Fico glandiferae et *F. rhizophoriphyllae* similis in ostioli apertura rimiformi, a *F. glandifera* in receptaculo minore, cupula vadosiore, a *F. rhizophoriphylla* in petiolo brevior, lamina acuminata apice acuto, cupula perspicua differt. — Typus: *T. C. Whitmore et al.* BSIP 5827 (holo BSIP; iso L), Solomon Islands, Shortland Island, 6.5.1964.

Tree up to 40 m tall, hemi-epiphytic. Leafy twigs 2–2.5 mm thick, angular, glabrous or minutely puberulous. Leaves in spirals; lamina oblong to elliptic, 3–10 by 1–3.5 cm, coriaceous, apex (sub)acuminate, the acumen sharp, base cuneate to obtuse; upper surface glabrous, lower surface glabrous; cystoliths on both sides; lateral veins (7–) 10–15 pairs, tertiary venation parallel to the lateral veins; waxy gland one at the base of the midrib beneath; petiole 0.8–2.5 cm long, glabrous or minutely puberulous; stipules 1–2.5(–3) cm long, glabrous or minutely puberulous, caducous. Figs axillary, in pairs or solitary; subsessile, the receptacle subtended by a puberulous cupule; basal bracts 3, 1–2 mm long, cucullate, puberulous, early caducous; receptacle subglobose,

HERB. UGD. BAL. No. 65 13 001



Ficus baola C.C. Berg. sp. nov.

holotype

det. C. C. Berg.
General Herbarium, Rotterdam,
Netherlands & other herbaria

1961, 2001

Revised for Flora Malesiana

Whitmore et al. 1961

det. E. J. H. Corner x / 1968

FLORA OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Ficus

Kurupese name: Boule

N.W. Shortland Island.
Hillside, 300' above sea level,
well drained primary forest.
Tree, 5-100'.
Butresses flying, to 30'.
Bark surface grey, smooth.
Slip, wood soft, brown.
Bark soft, reddish brown.
Sticky opaque, exulate.
Fruits, yellow, 1" long, oval.

6.5.64. Whitmore's collectors

BSIP 5827



Fig. 1. *Ficus baola* C.C. Berg (Whitmore et al. BSIP 5827, L).

when dry 0.5–0.8 cm in diameter, glabrous, at maturity orange to red, maculate, apex slightly umbonate, ostiole slit-shaped; inner layer of the wall thin.

Distribution — Solomon Islands (Shortland Island, Baga Islands, Ulawa Island, and San Cristobal).

Habitat — Forest; at low altitudes.

Vernacular name — Baola or boula (Kwara'ae names).

Note — The new species shows affinity to both *F. glandifera* and *F. rhizophoriphylla*. It differs from the former in smaller fig receptacle and the lower cupule, and from the latter in the lamina with a cuneate to obtuse base and a (sub)acuminate apex with a sharp acumen, in the presence of a low cupule, and in the shorter petioles.

Additional collections examined:

SOLOMON ISLANDS. Ulawa Island: *R. Teona BSIP 6299* (L), Moli, 18.2.1965. San Cristobal: *P. Runikera et al. BSIP 12677* (L), Onibia area, 19.11.1968; *T. C. Whitmore RSS 6170* (L), Pegato River, near confluence with Warahito River, 27.7.1965. New Georgia: *T. C. Whitmore 2879* (L), Baga Island, 30.1.1964.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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- Corner, E.J.H. 1967. *Ficus* in the Solomon Islands and its bearing on the Post-Jurassic history of Melanesia. Philos. Trans. B 253: 23–159.